



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505

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FB12-009

NOAA Fisheries Service Seeks Public Comment on a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Spiny Lobster in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic *Comment Period Ends March 19, 2012*

NOAA Fisheries Service is seeking public comment on a draft environmental impact statement for Amendment 11 to the Fishery Management Plan for Spiny Lobster in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic. The Environmental Protection Agency announced the availability of the draft environmental impact statement on February 3, 2012.

The Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils (Councils) are currently considering regulatory action needed to address actions to protect threatened and endangered species, including closing areas to protect elkhorn and staghorn corals and requiring trap lines to have markings unique to the fishery. These actions were originally included in Amendment 10 to the fishery management plan; however, the Councils chose to take no action at that time to allow for additional stakeholder input. The draft environmental impact statement analyzes the environmental impacts of these proposed actions.

Request for Comments

Written comments on this draft environmental impact statement must be received no later than **March 19, 2012**, in order to be considered by NOAA Fisheries Service. See the **Addresses** section for information on where and how to submit comments.

Addresses

Electronic copies of the draft amendment and environmental impact statement may be obtained from the NOAA Fisheries Service Web site <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/SpinyLobsterAmendment.htm>, the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal <http://www.regulation.gov>, the Gulf Council's Web site

<http://www.gulfcouncil.org>, or the South Atlantic Council's Web site at <http://www.safmc.net>.

You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- **Electronic Submissions:** All comments received are part of the public record and will generally be posted to www.regulations.gov without change. All personal identifying information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NOAA Fisheries Service will accept anonymous comments. To submit comments through the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: www.regulations.gov, click on "submit a comment," then enter "NOAA-NMFS-2011-0223" in the keyword search and click on "search." To view posted comments during the comment period, enter "NOAA-NMFS-2011-0223" in the keyword search and click on "search." You may submit attachments to electronic comments in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.
- **Mail:** Susan Gerhart, NOAA Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, Sustainable Fisheries Division, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505

Comments received through means not specified in this bulletin may not be considered.

If you would like to receive these fishery bulletins via e-mail as soon as they are published, e-mail us at: SERO.Communications.Comments@noaa.gov.